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Level 5

Cubans can now buy a car more easily

22nd December, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-5.html>

Cuba is making it easier for Cubans to buy foreign made, new and used cars. The Havana Times reports that the Council of Ministers decided "to open up the retail sale of new and used motorcycles, cars, vans and minibuses." The government will also "prioritize bicycle sales on the retail market" at very affordable prices. New laws mean the government is relaxing regulations on car ownership. Until 2011, people could not sell cars that were made after the 1959 Cuban revolution. This made Havana look like it was in a time warp. All cars were vintage models from yesteryear.

The Cuban government will control vehicle prices. It will also be the only organisation that can import foreign cars. Cubans will have to buy an imported car from the government. The Communist Party newspaper said profits from sales will improve Cuba's roads and transportation system. Car dealers are not expecting huge sales. Most people in Cuba cannot afford to buy a car. Havana resident Jorge Canso commented on this, saying: "Yeah, I can buy one, but with what? Unfortunately our economy doesn't allow us to save money to be able to buy one."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-25450026>
<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/12/19/3828433/cuba-lifts-all-restrictions-on.html>

<http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=100683>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. buy foreign made, new | a. on car ownership |
| 2. retail | b. warp |
| 3. affordable | c. and used cars |
| 4. the government is relaxing regulations | d. models from yesteryear |
| 5. Until 2011, people | e. Cuban revolution |
| 6. after the 1959 | f. prices |
| 7. This made Havana look like it was in a time | g. could not sell cars |
| 8. All cars were vintage | h. sale |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. control vehicle | a. resident |
| 2. the only organisation that can | b. Party |
| 3. Communist | c. money |
| 4. Cuba's roads and transportation | d. import foreign cars |
| 5. expecting | e. system |
| 6. cannot afford | f. prices |
| 7. Havana | g. huge sales |
| 8. allow us to save | h. to buy a car |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-5.html>

Cuba is making it easier for Cubans to (1) _____, new and used cars. The Havana Times reports that the Council of Ministers decided "to (2) _____ sale of new and used motorcycles, cars, vans and minibuses." The government (3) _____ bicycle sales on the retail market" (4) _____ prices. New laws mean the government is relaxing (5) _____ ownership. Until 2011, people could not sell cars that were made after the 1959 Cuban revolution. This made Havana look like it was (6) _____. All cars were vintage models from yesteryear.

The Cuban government will (7) _____. It will also be the only organisation that can (8) _____. Cubans will have to buy an imported car from the government. The Communist Party newspaper said profits from (9) _____ Cuba's roads and transportation system. Car dealers are not (10) _____. Most people in Cuba cannot afford to buy a car. Havana resident Jorge Canso commented on this, saying: "Yeah, I can buy one, (11) _____? Unfortunately our economy doesn't (12) _____ money to be able to buy one."

CUBA SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Cuba in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____
- h) _____

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131222-cuba-5.html>

Write about **Cuba** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
